

Greece



Population: 10,749,943 (July 2010 est.)
Population Growth Rate: 0.106% (2010 est.)
Birth Rate: 9.45 births/1,000 population (2009 est.)
Life Expectancy: total population: 79.8 years
male: 77.24 years
female: 82.52 years (2010 est.)
Literacy Rate: total population: 96%
male: 97.8%
female: 94.2% (2001 census)
Net Migration Rate: 2.33 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2010 est.)
Unemployment Rate: 9% (2009 est.)
Gross Domestic Product per Capita: 32,100 (2009 est.)
Religions: Greek Orthodox 98%, Muslim 1.3%, other 0.7%
Languages: Greek 99% (official), other (includes English and French) 1%
Ethnic Groups: Greek 93%, other (foreign citizens) 7% (2001 census)
Capital: Athens¹

Trafficking Routes

Greece is a destination and transit country for human trafficking; nearly 800,000 people are trafficked yearly across Greek borders.² Women from Eastern Europe and the Balkans are trafficked to Greece to be exploited in forced prostitution.³ Many children from Albania are reportedly trafficked to Greece each year.⁴

Factors That Contribute to the Trafficking Infrastructure

The use of victims to recruit other individuals into sex trafficking has greatly contributed to the trafficking infrastructure. Dubbed “happy trafficking,” this method promises victims the incentive of returning to their homes, but stipulates the condition that they must return with more women. Currently, 30 percent of trafficking suspects are women.⁵

Another identified factor that might contribute to the problem of trafficking is the existence of conditional protection of trafficking victims; safety will not be afforded unless victims speak out against their traffickers. Because many individuals fear retribution, few agree to testify in court; thus, traffickers go free and victims are often left unassisted.⁶

¹ CIA, THE WORLD FACTBOOK 2010, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gr.html>.

² OSAC, GREECE CRIME AND SAFETY REPORT (2009), available at: <https://www.osac.gov/Reports/report.cfm?contentID=98561>.

³ Greek Police Break Up International Sex Trafficking Ring (Dec. 17, 2007), available at: <http://www.humantrafficking.org/updates/738>.

⁴ USAID, COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY (October 2008), available at: http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/wid/pubs/Combating_TIP_21st_Century.pdf.

⁵ Niki Kitsantonis, *In Greece, female sex victims become recruiters*, NEW YORK TIMES, Jan. 29, 2008, available at: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/29/world/europe/29iht-traffic.4.9581918.html?_r=1.

⁶ *Greece: Justice and protection for trafficked women and girls*, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, June 12, 2007, http://www.amnesty.org.uk/news_details.asp?NewsID=17375.

Forms of Trafficking

Greece has been identified as a European country in which child trafficking occurs.⁷ Numerous women and children are trafficked to and through Greece to be sexually exploited through prostitution.⁸

Migrants to Greece are often exploited through forced labor, reportedly in manual labor and geriatric care.⁹ Children are trafficked to and within Greece for the purpose of forced labor in factories, in restaurants, and on farms.¹⁰

Baby trafficking has become common in Greece; women from such Balkan countries as Bulgaria bring their babies to sell to individuals who cannot legally adopt children, or who do not wish to abide by Greece's strict adoption system.¹¹

Government Responses

In 2004, a Special Legal Drafting Committee was established involving the Secretaries General of various ministries to address the problem of human trafficking.¹² The goal of the committee is to organize and manage any actions taken to combat human trafficking. In July 2004, the committee met in Athens to formulate a National Action Plan. The plan outlines past government and private initiatives, and reports upon measures taken by the individual ministries to fight trafficking. These actions include greater cooperation with nongovernmental organizations, continued sponsorship of awareness and education campaigns, and expansion of assistance and rights to victims in Greece and in countries of origin.¹³

Other laws have been developed to combat specific types of trafficking. For instance, Law 3064/2002 on "Combating trafficking in human beings, crimes against sexual freedom, child pornography, and more generally on economic exploitation of sexual life and assistance to the victims thereof" imposes punishment of imprisonment for a maximum of 10 years "for forcing an individual into prostitution through violence, threats, or false promises" and a prison sentence of six months or more for customers of prostitution.¹⁴ To deter the crime of forced begging, article 409 of the criminal code establishes a punishment of a fine or up to six months

⁷ UNICEF, INNOCENTI RESEARCH CENTRE, CHILD TRAFFICKING IN EUROPE: A BROAD VISION TO PUT CHILDREN FIRST (2007), available at: http://www.unicef.at/fileadmin/medien/pdf/child_trafficking_in_europe.pdf.

⁸ Press Release, Amnesty International, Greek Government Failing Women and Girls Trafficked for Forced Prostitution, Amnesty International Reveals (June 13, 2007), available at: <http://www.amnestyusa.org/document.php?id=ENGUSA20070613001&lang=e>.

⁹ Barbara Fraser, *Human Trafficking: Modern-day slavery with high stakes*, CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE, Aug. 25, 2008, available at: <http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/0804330.htm>.

¹⁰ Iphigenia Diamanti-Kathimerini, *Child labor is illegal but often seen in Greece*, KATHIMERINI, June 11, 2007, available at: http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcgi/w_articles_ell_1_11/06/2007_84370.

¹¹ Niki Kitsantonis and Matthew Brunwasser, *Baby trafficking is thriving in Greece*, NEW YORK TIMES, Dec. 18, 2006, available at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/18/world/europe/18iht-babies.3939121.html?pagewanted=2&r=1>.

¹² Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, *Greece* (2008), <http://www.mvcr.cz/mvcren/article/greece.aspx>.

¹³ HELLENIC REPUBLIC EMBASSY OF GREECE, NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (Dec. 1, 2006), available at: <http://www.greekembassy.org/embassy/Content/en/Article.aspx?office=1&folder=904&article=19612>.

¹⁴ Law 3064/2002 (2002) (Greece).

in prison for any person who coerces others to beg.¹⁵ To deter forced labor of children, Law 1837/1989 sets 15 years as the minimum age of employment, and Presidential Decree 62/1998 forbids children under 15 years from working in family businesses relating to agriculture, forestry, and livestock.¹⁶

Medical, psychological, and legal assistance for victims of trafficking is granted by Presidential Decree 233/2003; in addition, victims may receive six-month residence and work permits as they attend trial and consider repatriation.¹⁷

Nongovernmental and International Organization Responses

The National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) is the primary state agency for the support of trafficking victims. EKKA offers numerous services, including counseling and psychological assistance, housing, an emergency help line, and health care.¹⁸

The NGO Klimaka exists to assist victims of human trafficking in Greece, and cooperates with NGOs in source countries to stop the influx of trafficked persons to Greece. Klimaka works with organizations in Albania, Serbia, Nigeria, and Ukraine to increase awareness and prosecution of trafficking crimes. The CHLOE Women's Shelter provides living arrangements, legal assistance, educational training, counseling services, and medical attention to victims in Greece.¹⁹

The STORGI home for abused women and children was established by a cooperative between the NGO SOLIDARITY and the International Development Cooperation Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. STORGI provides shelter, as well as medical and legal assistance, to victims of domestic violence and trafficking.²⁰

Doctors of the World (Médecins du Monde-Greece) sponsors a shelter in Athens for refugees, a shelter for victims of sex trafficking, and a medical center.²¹ While the NGO's primary focus is offering humanitarian aid in times of conflict or natural disaster, it also advocates for human rights through "silent diplomacy" and the media.²²

Multilateral Initiatives

¹⁵ Library of Congress, *Children's Rights: Greece* (Feb. 5, 2009), available at: <http://www.loc.gov/law/help/child-rights/greece.php#t15>.

¹⁶ *Id.* at 15.

¹⁷ *Id.* at 15.

¹⁸ National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA), <http://www.ekka.org.gr/> (last visited July 1, 2010).

¹⁹ Klimaka NGO, "CHLOE" women's shelter for refugees and immigrants survivors of violence and human trafficking, <http://www.klimaka-cosmos.net/mod.php?p=greece&m=trafficking> (last visited Feb. 15, 2010).

²⁰ Solidarity, *Corporate*, http://www.solidarity.gr/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=59&Itemid=77&lang=en (last visited Feb. 15, 2010).

²¹ Invest in Greece, *Selected charities and NGOs in Greece*, http://www.invgr.com/ngos_greece.htm (last visited Feb. 15, 2010).

²² EuroCharity, *Médecins du Monde-Grèce*, <http://www.eurocharity.gr/company/3456/1r21q/447> (last visited Feb. 15, 2009).

The European Network of Women (ENW), based in Athens, sponsors women's shelters and hotlines for victims of trafficking. The ENW also provides free legal assistance to victims and training to professionals who come into contact with trafficked individuals.²³

In June 2005, the ARIADNE Network Against Trafficking in Human Beings in Southeastern and Eastern Europe was founded in Athens. Eighteen NGOs from 13 countries belong to the network, which was established to assist victims, raise public awareness, and distribute publications about human trafficking.²⁴ Currently, member countries are involved in the 2008–2009 “Third Joint Project,” which is implementing measures to counter trafficking, such as publication of a “good practices” manual, staging of a workshop for member NGOs to discuss effective anti-trafficking practices, and distribution of materials describing services to potential victims and organizations that come into contact with victims.²⁵

In 2007, a two-year project was initiated between public and private entities in Austria, Greece, Italy, and Romania. The project seeks to develop strong partnerships for the purpose of determining good practices, exchanging information and methods, and creating training procedures. The project's results will be presented at a conference in June 2010 in Rome.²⁶

²³ CAFAMERICA, ISSUE BRIEF: HUMAN TRAFFICKING, *available at*: <http://www.cafamerica.org/dnn/Portals/0/charitydocs/Issue%20Brief%20Human%20Trafficking.pdf> (last visited Feb. 15, 2010).

²⁴ Ariadne, *About Ariadne* (2008), <http://www.ariadnet.net/about.php>.

²⁵ Ariadne, *Third Joint Project* (2008-2009), <http://www.ariadnet.net/projects.php?Id=5&>

²⁶ AGIRE, *Austria, Greece, Italy, ad Romania. Acting for stronger private-public partnerships in the field of identification and support of child victims and at risk of trafficking in Europe*, *available at*: http://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/IIMS-documents/ICMPD/AGIRE/AGIRE_project_description_final.pdf (last visited Feb. 15, 2010).